Apostolic nuncio reflects on papal journey to America

Deacon Aaron Jenkins brings many gifts to the priesthood

By Sean Gallagher

"That boy’s going to be a priest." Such was the thought of Russ Jenkins in 1951 when his son, Aaron, received into the full communion of the Catholic Church during an Easter Vigil celebrated at St. Ambrose Church in Anderson, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

Even though Russ, a longtime member of Zion United Church of Christ in Shelby County, had limited knowledge of the Catholic faith, he knew his son well. He knew that Aaron, even at a young age, had a desire to grow closer to God.

"It was nothing for him to go out and meditate on his own [when he was 9 or 10]," Russ said. "We lived close to a little wooded area, and he would disappear for an hour or two and just be out there meditating."

That yearning for God continued during Aaron’s teenage years and when he was a student at Anderson University in Anderson, Ind. During those years, that desire for God eventually led him into the full communion of the Church.

A year later, after teaching art for a year at an elementary school in Washington, he told his parents that he was going to enter the seminary.

"I really think God has played a big part in it," Russ said. "Everything that I thought is actually coming about now. It’s pretty amazing, really, to think like I was thinking back then and it actually coming about."

Seeking God in beauty

A key part of Deacon Jenkins’s journey of faith and journey to the priesthood has been his love of art, which he expresses in his works of stained-glass, and in the sculptures and paintings he has created.

"Ultimately, art is a search for beauty," said Deacon Jenkins. "And that’s ultimately what the search for God is. God is the ultimate beauty. Christians search for God and so we search for beauty. That’s what attracts us to it."

Deacon Jenkins also loves the "raw beauty" he finds in nature. This is a love that was, in part, nurtured by his father’s prophetic thought is being fulfilled.

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During his visit to Indianapolis, Archbishop Pietro Sambi spoke with The Criterion about the pope’s trip to America.

Q: Now that, in a sense, the “dust has settled” from Pope Benedict XVI’s visit, what would you say was the significance of the visit for the Church in this country?

A: I think that what has been the demeaning of this pastoral journey of Benedict XVI to the United States was clearly explained by himself: “I go to confirm my brothers and sisters in faith.” This is the mandate that our Lord Jesus Christ has given to Peter and his successors.

But the pope, in a comment that he made [recently] in Rome, said something extremely important: “I went to the United States to confirm my brothers and sisters in the faith. And they confirmed me in hope.”

Q: Do you think what the pope did and said here and how he was received has a significance for the Church in other parts of the world, perhaps in Europe and other places, where secularism has taken a stronger hold than here?

A: I have said from the beginning that, given the power of the mass media in the United States, a successful visit of the pope in the United States would be a successful visit in the world, just as a failure of the visit of the pope in the United States would be a failure of the visit all over the world.

And, really, the mass media played a very positive role and they presented the
There’s just the solitude that you find normally there. There are just lots of beautiful analogies out there in nature that help us to figure out or think about God and his relationship with us.”

Deacon Jenkins ultimately became an Eagle Scout, the highest level of achievement in the Boy Scouts. Father William Stumpf, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, got to see these wide and varied interests in Deacon Jenkins when he was ministered and ministered at Father Stumpf’s parish last summer.

Father Stumpf thinks these interests will help him to be a priestly minister. “He’s going to be able to connect and to relate to people on so many different levels,” said Father Stumpf. “Ministry is primarily relational. That makes him so much more approachable.”

Embracing the whole person

Although Deacon Jenkins expresses his desire for God through his artistic talents, he doesn’t see those talents and his love for beauty as just small sections of his personality. “I can’t compartmentalize it,” he said. “No matter what I’m looking at or what I’m doing, I’m always going to approach it with an artistic sensibility.”

“Aaron embraces the whole person and the whole experience of living faith,” said Father Eric Johnson, archdiocesan vocations director. “I think that’s what attracted him to Catholicism. It engages the senses. It engages the emotions. It engages the mind. It engages every part of that.”

Engaging the faith in this way will also lead Deacon Jenkins to have meaningful relationships in his ministry. Father Johnson said, “Aaron, I think, has a deep desire to be a man of communion.”

Deacon Jenkins is a member of Mount Carmel Parish in Rushville.

When Deacon Jenkins initially told them that he wanted to be a priest, they were sad because they didn’t see how they would have the good marriage and children they had hoped for. “Now they see that their family is expanding in a different way,” said Father Johnson. “The loss of one through death might have us, I don’t see that at all anymore,” said Linda. “If anything, I see that it’s going to be even more rewarding to have people whose lives he’ll touch.”

Deacon Jenkins is looking forward to expanding his family by gaining lots of increase that would put talk of God’s influence on its shaping to rest. What’s curious is these two extremes—the radical deists on one side and the radical Christianmillenialists on the other side—seem to be what we’ve got today oddy enough,” Schneck said. “It was precisely those two extremes that were really rejected by the consensus that formed about the proper role of religion in American political life in that framing generation.”

Schneck, whose work with colleagues at the Life Cycle Institute examines public policies and their relationship to Catholic social teaching, later told Catholic News Service that the two views that were rejected in the 18th century have made their way back to the forefront of political debate today. The middle ground between the extremes of left and right has faded today, he said.

He also identified the two remaining perspectives held by a broader cross section of the country’s founders. People such as George Washington and John Adams believed that it was important to have a civil religion, which is that transcended denominational boundaries but lent sanctity to public ceremonies. They felt that such practice of religion publicly would bind the new nation with a spirit of nationalism, he explained.

The fourth view, he said, espoused by Thomas Paine and others, held that such a civil religion would threaten religion locally. They believed in the separation of church and state, but also that local religion fostered the virtues of civility and care for one another that democracy needs. It is that view, Schneck said, which eventually guided the country’s founders.

Religion

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sabbatical year, addressing the issue of civility in the 2008 election campaign. He also gives talks from Catholic, evangelical and mainline Protestant traditions released a statement called “In Defense of Religion on the Campaign Trail” in “Keeping Faith: Principles to Protect Traditions.”

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Deacon Aaron Jenkins is 31.

Hometown: Rushville

Parents: Russell and Linda Jenkins

Education: Rushville Consolidated High School, Anderson University, Saint Meinrad School of Theology

Parishes he has served in as a seminarian: St. Flus X Parish in Joliet, Illinois; St. Mary Parish in New Albany, St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington

Favorite saint: St. Ambrose (“He was known for his love of beautiful liturgy and writing many hymns, including the Exsultate. He also was known for his mystagogical teaching and used the image of a bee hive to describe the work of the Church, which I always like because my grandfather raised bees. It is also the name of the church that I became Catholic at.”)

For more on this story, please read page 1A.

The Criterion

5/23/08

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Price:
$22.00 per year, 75 cents per copy

Toll free: ..................................... 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
Main office: ..................................... 317-236-1570

P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

Web site: ..................................... www.criteriononlinenews.com

E-mail: ..................................... criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

Copyright © 2008 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350

Religion

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Mailing: 1400 N. Meridian St. P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

Massing: 317-236-1570

Circulation: 317-236-1570

Publishing: 317-236-1570

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2008 Criterion Press Inc.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Criterion Press Inc.

1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1717
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

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College seminary to host Bishop Bruté Days in June

By Sean Gallagher

Bishop Bruté Days, a retreat and camping experience for junior high and high school-aged boys sponsored by the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, just keeps growing and growing.

In its initial year in 2006, some 18 young men from across the archdiocese participated in the priestly vocations camp. Last year, that number ballooned to 52 boys.

This year, the event, which will take place on June 11-14 at the Future Farmers of America Center near Trafalgar, is expected to have another great turnout.

With that growth in mind, Father Robeson Robeson, rector of the seminary, said there will be separate tracks for Bishop Bruté Days, one for boys in grades seven and eight, and another for boys in ninth grade through 11th grade.

High school seniors who sign up for Bishop Bruté Days will be assistant counselors during the event.

“It’s really wonderful,” Father Robeson said. “The response has been exceedingly positive. It’s nice to be able to have two tracks because we’re able to better address the needs of a wider range of kids.”

Bishop Bruté Days is designed for young men who are open to the idea that God might be calling them to the priesthood.

It will include daily Mass, eucharistic adoration, prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours and the rosary, opportunities for confession, and presentations on various aspects of faith given by priests and seminarians.

In addition to these faith-centered activities, the camp will also include various outdoor activities, such as basketball, football, canoeing and swimming.

Kyle Field, a homeschooled high school senior who is a member of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington, will be an assistant camp counselor. He participated in the first two Bishop Bruté Days.

From his experience, the outdoor activities paved the way for a more profound experience of prayer at the camp.

“They just sort of brought us all closer together,” Kyle said. “They sort of made us all more comfortable with each other, a little more able to pray together and understand where everyone is coming from.”

Seminarian Daniel Bedel, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enochsburg in the Batesville Deanery, will be a junior at Bishop Bruté College Seminary next fall.

As one of this year’s leaders at Bishop Bruté Days, he thinks the camp can be very helpful for young men who might be starting to think about the priesthood.

“When I was first thinking about [the priesthood] and this wasn’t available for me, I didn’t know how many other guys out there were even considering the priesthood,” Bedel said. “So, in that respect, I think this is great because you’ll have a bunch of young Catholics from all across the archdiocese getting together—high school, middle school kids—that will be there to have a good time but, at the same time, enrich their faith and share their feelings for the priesthood.”

Young men who might be thinking about the priesthood will also be able to interact with archdiocesan seminarians, some of them not many years older than themselves.

“When I first went to it, I didn’t really know what the seminary was,” Kyle said. “I didn’t know much about it at all. And then I saw these guys. They were really excited about what they’re doing. … It made you wonder, ‘Why are they getting excited about that?’”

(Registration for Bishop Bruté Days is $50 and will be taken until June 4. For more information or to register, call 317-955-6512. Log on to www.archindy.org/bbdlays.html or send an email to robeson@archindy.org.)

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—In a clarification approved by Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican said its 2005 document prohibiting the admission of homosexuals to the priesthood applies to all types of seminaries.

That includes houses of formation run by religious orders and those under the authority of the agencies dealing with missionary territories and Eastern Churches, said a statement signed by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

The two-sentence clarification was published on May 17 by the Vatican newspaper L’Osservatore Romano. It came in response to “numerous requests for clarification,” the Vatican said.

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In 2005, after more than eight years of study, the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education issued “Instruction Concerning the Criteria for the Discernment of Vocations With Regard to Persons With Homosexual Tendencies or who support the “gay culture.” It urged bishops, major superiors and “all relevant authorities” to make sure the norms were followed.

Cardinal Bertone’s clarification said in response to questions, “It is specified that the provisions contained in this instruction are valid for all the houses of priestly formation, including those that depend on the Congregation for Eastern Churches, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.”

It said the pope had approved the clarification on April 8.†
 fictional story, the "Be a Good Samaritan" initiative in which people send in shoes to help those in need. The narrative highlights the personal experiences of individuals involved in the charitable work, such as the coach of the IUPUI men's basketball team, Hunter, who went barefoot during a game to raise awareness for a charitable cause. The story discusses the impact of the initiative, such as the hundreds of shoes collected and the contributions made to a shoe bank in the city. The narrative also mentions the involvement of Turners, a shoe company, and the broader community's response to the initiative. The purpose of the story is to inspire readers to contribute to similar causes and to highlight the importance of community involvement in improving the lives of others.

Opinion

Letters to the Editor

Myths and facts about immigration

In regard to The Criterion’s ongoing “Myths and facts about immigration” series, the America people have always welcomed immigrants, and I see no change in that. We are a generous, caring people. And the American people have always been outraged when people break our laws and expect to be welcomed. I see no change in that either.

Barbara L. Maness  
Vevay

New bioethics column offers perspectives on medical issues

I just wanted to give you some positive feedback. The new series of articles by Father Tad Pacholczyk, “Making Sense of Bioethics,” is excellent! I learn a great deal about very complex issues facing the Church and the world in the space of a column. He is an excellent writer and obviously very well-educated in Church teaching and the science involved in bioethical questions. I hope the column will continue because I look forward to reading it every week, as I do other columns, such as “Question Corner” by Father John Dietzen, editor emeritus John Fink’s articles on sacred Scripture and the Faith Alive! supplement.

Besides giving us news of the archdiocese—which you do very well—you are at your best when you help us understand and live out the teachings of Christ and His Church.

Thank you.
Mike Haigerty  
Indianapolis
Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is a celebration of family

En domingo celebramos la festividad de Corpus Christi. Resulta oportuno aprovechar esta ocasión para recordar que somos una Iglesia que es la familia de la Iglesia. Y debemos darle la bienvenida a aquellos que necesitan que seamos una familia para ellos. Y debemos darnos la bienvenida unos a otros porque debemos ser familia para todos, tanto en nuestras hogares como en nuestras iglesias.

La festividad de Corpus Christi es una celebración familiar

En aquel tiempo, el ángel no solo llamó a la puerta de los hogares, sino que también volvió a poner en jaque la idea de que los hogares son lugares herméticamente sellados. Aun cuando los hogares sean compartidos por muchas familias, la idea de que los hogares son refugios seguros y privados es una idea que ha sido desacreditada con el tiempo.

La Eucaristía nos convierte en una comunidad para servir a Dios y a la Iglesia como sacerdotes. Seminarios es el lugar donde los futuros sacerdotes se forman. El arzobispo Daniel M. Buechlein es el patrón de los seminarios. ¿Qué haría usted si supiera que tendrá la oportunidad de compartir una cena con sus familiares o sus mejores amigos, ¿qué haría?

Durante la Última Cena Jesús celebró con los 12 Apóstoles, amigos elegidos entre los discípulos, nos entregó el sacramento de su cuerpo y su sangre para poder estar siempre entre nosotros. Nos entregó este don a pesar de que uno de ellos lo traicionaría por dinero. Otro incluso negaría conocerle. La última cena Jesús compartió con sus amigos coincidió con la comida tradicional judía de la Pascua, la comemoración de la liberación de la esclavitud. La comida ritual de la Pascua judía se transformó en la Cena del Señor, el memorial del sacrificio del Cordero de Judía se transformó en la Cena del Señor, conmemoración de la liberación de la esclavitud.

E. June 22, 2008

La Eucaristía es el único sacramento que tiene como objeto a toda la Iglesia, a toda la comunidad de creyentes. En la Eucaristía debemos darle la bienvenida a aquellos que necesitan que seamos una familia para ellos. Y debemos darles la bienvenida a aquellos que necesitan que seamos una familia para ellos, a nuestros vecinos, a nuestros vecinos, a aquellos que necesitan que seamos una familia para ellos.

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**Events Calendar**

**Retreats and Programs**

**May 25**
St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 S. St. Hedwig Court, Christ processions, following 10:30 a.m. Mass. Information: 812-275-0539.

St. Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, Mont Cassino Pilgrimage, "Mary, Our Lady of Silence," Benedictine Brother Francis Wagner, 2 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or news@stmeinrad.edu.

**May 26**
Calvary Cemetery, Mausoleum Chapel, 453 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. Memorial Day Mass, noon. Information: 317-382-9836, ext. 1596 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

**May 30-31**

**June 1**
St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Meridian St., Indianapolis. African Mass, 3 p.m., reception following Mass. Information: 317-632-0349.

**June 18**

**June 27-29**
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. "The Church after Vatican II: Discover the Burred Treasure," Benedictine Father Jerome King and Benedictine Father Benet Amato; presenters. Information: 800-581-6905 or MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

**July 1-3**

**July 3-5**

**Twice yearly**
Benedictine Brother Francis Wagner. (800 382 9836, ext. 1596 or MZoeller@stmeinrad.edu.)

**Four parishes change Mass times due to holiday and race**

Four parishes in the Indianapolis West Deanery will change their Mass schedule for the Memorial Day weekend on May 24-25 due to the 92nd annual Indianapolis 500 race on May 25.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.


St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis—Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. on May 24 and at 3:30 p.m. on May 25.

Holy Trinity Parish, 2618 W. St. Clair St., Indianapolis—Mass will be celebrated at 3:40 p.m. on May 24.

There will not be a Mass on May 25.

For information about Mass changes at other parishes in the area, call the parish offices.

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**Share Your Harvest program benefits needy people in area**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society’s food pantry in Indianapolis, in cooperation with Dammann’s, Dammann’s Lawn and Garden Centers, has an ongoing program called "Share Your Harvest."

Through the effort, any home gardener can bring in excess vegetables to any of Dammann’s three Indianapolis-area garden centers at 8005 E. 30th St., 4914 Rockville Road and 5129 E. Emerson Ave. Dammann’s sells the donated fresh vegetables at market value, and all proceeds are given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s food pantry.

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers use the funds to purchase meat and canned goods for needy people in the area who come to the food pantry for assistance.

"As Christians, we have a responsibility to care for others,” said Helen Dammann, co-owner of the Dammann’s stores.

She said her husband, Jim, who is an avid gardener, came up with the idea for this unique way to reach out to the less fortunate.

They are members of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis.

Jim Dammann said Tim and Pam Hafner, who are volunteers for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, "spend a lot of time planting and growing" vegetables and deserve much of the credit for the program.

Don Striegel, the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s food pantry volunteer coordinator, said his organization has had a good partnership with Dammann’s for the last few years, and he hopes it will continue for many years to come.

"It’s been a really good deal,” Striegel said.

Due to the uncertainty that many Americans—including the marginalized—face these days with the nation’s unstable economy, Striegel said, “any help is definitely appreciated.”

(Dammann’s three Indianapolis locations and their phone numbers are: 8005 E. 30th St., 317-894-1867, 4914 Rockville Road, 317-381-9876; and 5129 E. Emerson Ave., 317-786-0799. For more information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s food pantry, contact 3001 E. 30 St., in Indianapolis, call 317-924-5769.)

VIPs

Bernard and Rita (Heppner) Batta, members of St. Paul Parish in New Alsace, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 17.

The couple was married on May 17, 1958, at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg.

They have three children: Debra Walker, Douglas and Jeff Batta. They have seven grandchildren.

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St. Vincent de Paul volunteers use the funds to purchase meat and canned goods for needy people in the area who come to the food pantry for assistance.

"As Christians, we have a responsibility to care for others," said Helen Dammann, co-owner of the Dammann’s stores.

She said her husband, Jim, who is an avid gardener, came up with the idea for this unique way to reach out to the less fortunate.

They are members of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis.

Jim Dammann said Tim and Pam Hafner, who are volunteers for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, "spend a lot of time planting and growing" vegetables and deserve much of the credit for the program.

Don Striegel, the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s food pantry volunteer coordinator, said his organization has had a good partnership with Dammann’s for the last few years, and he hopes it will continue for many years to come.

"It’s been a really good deal," Striegel said.

Due to the uncertainty that many Americans—including the marginalized—face these days with the nation’s unstable economy, Striegel said, “any help is definitely appreciated.”

(Dammann’s three Indianapolis locations and their phone numbers are: 8005 E. 30th St., 317-894-1867, 4914 Rockville Road, 317-381-9876; and 5129 E. Emerson Ave., 317-786-0799. For more information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s food pantry, contact 3001 E. 30 St., in Indianapolis, call 317-924-5769.)

VIPs

Bernard and Rita (Heppner) Batta, members of St. Paul Parish in New Alsace, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 17.

The couple was married on May 17, 1958, at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg.

They have three children: Debra Walker, Douglas and Jeff Batta. They have seven grandchildren.
Meet our future deacons

On June 28, history will be made at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis when 25 men from central and southern Indiana become the first permanent deacons ordained for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

This week’s issue of The Criterion continues a series of profiles of these men, which will be published in the weeks leading up to that important day.

Mike Stratman
Age: 52
Spouse: Cynthia
Home Parish: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Terre Haute
Occupation: Advertising Salesman

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?
My first role model of faith in my life is my wife, Cindy. She is loving, honest, understanding and supportive in my journey of faith. Janet Roth, our [parish] youth minister, has a love and dedication to our youth and the people she works with that is awesome! Another group that needs to be mentioned here is our prayer group. This awesome group of men and women has come together twice a month for the past 11 years. They offer a spiritual awareness of Christ’s presence in my life through prayer, reflection and support.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, prayers and devotions?
One of my favorite Scripture passages is I Cor 9:19-27. It describes the way that I approach my ministry as being “all things to all.” My daily prayer consists of the Liturgy of the Hours, daily readings of Scripture, and personal prayer devotions to St. Joseph and St. Michael the Archangel.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?
I believe we are all called to be ministers in some way within the Catholic Church. When I was accepted into the diaconate program, I felt God had a hand in the decision-making process. Throughout the four years of formation, God has guided me and given me the strength to follow the path of the diaconate and the peace of mind that comes from serving God.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?
The impact on my life and family as a deacon will be challenging, to say the least, when maintaining a balance within my life. My first obligation is to my marriage and family. I would not be here if it wasn’t for my family’s support and prayers. My love for the Catholic Church and my ministry as a deacon will be felt through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit when I minister with love and understanding to my family, friends and the Catholic Church.

Bob Decker
Age: 57
Spouse: Ann
Home Parish: St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis
Occupation: Parish Life Coordinator

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?
Christ is my primary role model. My parents, my wife, children, grandchildren, family and friends have taught me unconditional love. Friends and parishioners at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, St. John the Baptist Parish in Osgood and St. Paul Parish in New Alsace have taught me how to live in a community united with Christ.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, prayers and devotions?
[The Mass] is the center point of my life where I become energized with the blessings of the Holy Spirit to live with Christ and all God’s people. I love the Eucharist. Here we become the Christ to others.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?
The more I inform my faith, the stronger it grows. As I reach out to others, my call to help them becomes louder. As I see Jesus in others, I feel compelled to respond. The more I pray and listen to God, the more I feel it is his call and it is his request for me. I have been blessed with so many gifts, relationships and abilities. I thank God and return them to him as a servant. I am called by Christ and his Church to share my gifts with others. It brings [me] great joy as I do so.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?
Through formation and through ministering, we—my children, grandchildren, family and especially my wife—grow deeper in love as we grow together with Christ in our daily life. We place God as a priority in our life. As a result, there are times of sacrifice as we tend to the needs of others rather than having that time together. This cup becomes a family cup, shared and accepted with God’s blessing. I try to make up that time with them later.

Sisters of St. Benedict
Come and See Vocation Retreat Weekend
June 20-22, 2008
Our Lady of Grace Monastery

For More Information Contact:
St. Nicollette Etienne, OSB
1402 Southern Avenue
Beech Grove, Indiana 46107
317-727-7707 ext. 9233
nicollette@benedictine.org
Visit our Website www.benedictine.org

...so that is all things God may be glorified.
Acts of St. Benedict 67:2

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Minimum three to five years hands-on experience in managing fundraising & communication programs

Bachelor's degree in related field

Director of Mission Advancement

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During his meeting with the 50 bishops, the pope, quoting Cardinal Francis E. George, noted that some U.S. bishops had handled badly some of the sexual abuse cases. Many people in the media, who were skeptical before the pope’s visit, were very pleased by the trip. But they still thought, “Why haven’t any of these bishops who handled cases badly been disciplined in a public way?” How would you respond to a question like that?

Q. A Day of Reflection on Prayer with Fr. Jim Farrell - Director Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5535 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-7681

A Day of Reflection on Prayer
with Fr. Jim Farrell
Director Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

Monday, June 16, 2008
9 am–2 pm

$35 per person includes the program, continental breakfast, Mass, and lunch.

To register, please contact Rosa at the number below or by email at rhapslitz@archindy.org or go to www.archindy.org/fatima

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5535 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226

NUNCIO continued from page 1A

This visit of the Holy Father to the United States in an exceptional way. You have seen that the pope who has, as a caricature, an intimidating personality. Even so, you have seen his joy, his smile, his open arms to the American people.

I remember that one newspaper asked me, “Does Benedict XVI love the American people?” I answered that it is a tradition almost all over the world that personalities are celebrated in the family.

And Pope Benedict XVI has chosen to celebrate his birthday and to celebrate the anniversary of his election as pope in the United States. You can conclude yourself.

Q. Was there any particular event or moment during Pope Benedict’s visit here that had a special significance for you personally?

A. His eucharistic celebrations at the Nationals Park in Washington and at Yankee Stadium in New York.

The Holy Father is impressive when he is celebrating the Eucharist. I receive the joy, his smile, his open arms to the American people.

I remember that one newspaper asked me, “Does Benedict XVI love the American people?” I answered that it is a tradition almost all over the world that personalities are celebrated in the family.

And when the Lord is present on the altar after the consecration, the pope would like to disappear so that the people will see Jesus Christ in the midst of them.

Q. During his meeting with the 50 bishops, the pope, quoting Cardinal Francis E. George, noted that some U.S. bishops had handled badly some of the sexual abuse cases. Many people in the media, who were skeptical before the pope’s visit, were very pleased by the trip. But they still thought, “Why haven’t any of these bishops who handled cases badly been disciplined in a public way?” How would you respond to a question like that?

A. You need to read what is written. The pope quoted a phrase of Cardinal George referring to the past.

There is a phrase to the priests in St. Patrick’s (Cathedral) in New York in which the pope, already responding to this kind of rumor, said to the priests to be in solidarity with their bishops, who will continue to repair the damage created by the sexual scandal and to renovate the Church on this aspect.

So the pope did not make a reproach to the bishops of today. He said, according to the phrase of Cardinal George, that, in the past, some bishops have handled this question badly.

But he recognized how the bishops of yesterday and the bishops of today are really honest and engaged in solving this problem.

Q. So maybe those who may have made mistakes in the past recognized their mistakes and are not making those mistakes again?

A. Yes. But you have to know that almost the totality of the bishops of today have to face the consequences of mistakes that were made before they were bishops, before they were responsible.

And it is not easy to spend so much of your time, of your human and psychological energy, and of the money of the diocese for mistakes that you have not committed.

There’s only one example to follow: Jesus assumed on himself the sins that he did not commit—our sins.

Q.Shortly before Pope Benedict’s visit here, you said that “our primary goal with the victims is to help them heal from this very deep hurt that has been imposed on them.” How do you think that goal may have been advanced by the meeting that the pope had with a group of victims that happened in your home?

A. Exactly, I was there. It was an extremely moving moment, full of emotion from every side. I think that these persons will never forget the meeting with the pope.

And after the pope left, I saw on their faces and in their words and in their attitudes the sense of liberation from what they suffered.

What I want to say is this: We’re helping these people who really need help—not those who are trying to gain money with them—but those who are trying to re-establish their confidence in their own worth, their confidence in life, and their confidence in others and in the Church.

These five persons, as the long list of the many others that I have followed in the same way, in some way, they have found again the joy of living. One of these ladies will be married in the next month.

Q. When you addressed the U.S. bishops last fall, you said that you hoped the coming apostolic journey of his holiness would be a visit by Peter to help bring about a new Pentecost in the Church in the United States.

A. A new usefulness, a new springtime, a new Pentecost.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5535 E. 56th Street
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(317) 545-7681
Explore Southern Indiana's state parks

Kentucky's 'Holy Land'
Bardstown played key role in growth of U.S. Church, page 6B.

Desert beauty
Sedona Gardens of St. John Vianney are breathtaking, page 5B.

Zoo celebrates 20 years
Koalas get summer vacation at Indianapolis Zoo, page 16B.

See related story, page 2B.
History and harmony

O’Bannon, Lincoln and Harmonie state parks offer lots of fun activities for every one

By Patricia Hopp Cornell
Special to The Criterion

SOUTHERN INDIANA—Indiana has 24 state parks, but many Hoosiers may not know that tucked away in the southwest corner are three beautiful parks. O’Bannon Woods, Lincoln and Harmonie are state parks.

You can reach these parks by State Road 62 from New Albany or I-65 south to I-265 west then I-64 west. But if you jog the interstate, you miss seeing Possum Junction, Little Pigeon Creek and Frog Pond Road. I prefer the “back way” past swallowtail butterflies feeding on Joe Pye Weed, fields of corn and cattle, hilltop farmhouses, small towns, the bell towers of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and sycamores lining Little Blue River.

Department of Natural Resources park fees are $4 per car on Monday through Thursday, $5 per car on Friday through Sunday and on holidays, and $7 for non-residents. A $36 annual pass for Hoosiers covers admission to all the state parks. An annual pass for a non-resident with an out-of-state license plate costs $46.

Properties are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. for day users. The area west of Corydon is on Central Time so Lincoln and Harmonie state parks are an hour “behind” Indianapolis. These parks do not have lodges. Campsite and cabin fees vary by location.

Costumed volunteers ready Lion, a Durham Shorthorn ox, for a demonstration of the restored 1850 hay press at O’Bannon Woods State Park.

O’Bannon Woods State Park

7234 Old Forest Road S.W.
Corydon, IN 47172
812-738-8232
Established in Harrison County in 2004
2.000 acres
2½ hours or 150 miles from New Albany
40 minutes or 30 miles from Indianaplis

A culture is no better than its woods.

—W. H. Auden

Eighty miles of horse trails loop through the park and state forest, and two horsemen’s camps are available, one with electricity.

Wildflower gardens grace the approach to the nature center where your guided activities range from children’s programs on creekry, cruddy things to canoe trips and guided cave exploration.

A short walk through a butterfly garden behind the center brings you to the 1830s-era farmlands, the hub of living history demonstrations enacted on several weekends during the summer. We watched costumed volunteers ply such pioneer skills as blacksmithing, woodworking and spinning.

What makes O’Bannon Woods unique, however, is its 1850 hay press, a three-story baling mechanism that is its own barn. Restored in 2000, it is one of only eight surviving hay presses in the country and the only one that is still operational. The barn originally also housed cattle, hay and farm equipment.

My husband, John, and I joined a crowd one Saturday to watch the press work. Operating it requires three attendants plus a strong draft animal, such as an ox, to turn a wooden “sweep” at the bottom of the building.

During several weekends a year, “Lion,” a 2,000-pound, 12-year-old Durham Shorthorn ox earns his hay when he is yoked to the sweep, a horizontal wooden beam, and a volunteer leads him in a circle. This raises a 500-pound weight from the second floor to the third level via pulleys as helpers fork hay into a second-floor compartment. When the weight falls, it compresses the hay into a 300-pound square bale. It takes 15 minutes to make one bale.

Samuel Hewitt of Switzerland County invented the press in 1837 to facilitate transportation of hay to urban areas via barges on the Ohio River. It improved on the earlier “jump press,” so named because men actually jumped on the hay to compress it. By the 1850s, steam-powered balers made hay presses obsolete.

O’Bannon Woods partially borders the Ohio River and has small-boat access to the Blue River.

Lincoln State Park

Highway 162
15476 N County Road 300 E.
Lincoln City, IN 47552
812-937-4710

Established in Spencer County in 1934
1,500-seat outdoor Lincoln Amphitheater was built to offer concerts and other entertainment throughout the year, but there are no programs scheduled this year. Indiana Department of Natural Resources personnel expect to reopen it with a new “Lincoln Drama” in 2009.

A short walk through a butterfly garden behind the center brings you to the 1830s-era farmlands, the hub of living history demonstrations enacted on several weekends during the summer. We watched costumed volunteers ply such pioneer skills as blacksmithing, woodworking and spinning.

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O’Bannon Woods partially borders the Ohio River and has small-boat access to the Blue River.

Leavenworth and Corydon are close enough to provide lodging and dining alternatives.

Also nearby are the Corydon First State Capitol, Wyandotte Caves, Marengo Cave and Squire Boone Caverns.

Lincoln State Park

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15476 N County Road 300 E.
Lincoln City, IN 47552
812-937-4710

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1,500-seat outdoor Lincoln Amphitheater was built to offer concerts and other entertainment throughout the year, but there are no programs scheduled this year. Indiana Department of Natural Resources personnel expect to reopen it with a new “Lincoln Drama” in 2009.

Across Highway 162, the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will grately history buffs. Its half-moon museum is faced with bas-relief sculptures and Lincoln quotations. There is no fee to visit the memorial. The grave of Lincoln’s mother, Nancy Hanks, is on the property, which is also the site of a working 1820s-era pioneer farm.

On the afternoon that we visited the farmstead, goldfinches were harvesting seeds from sunflowers, a dove cooed in a tree overhead, and a costumed woman swept out the cabin. In the barnyard, a man fed a cow, sheep and chickens. Another man did leatherwork in a nearby shed. In the summer, Indiana Department of Natural Resources personnel enact daily demonstrations of pioneer trades.

Thomas Lincoln, Abe’s father, moved his family to what is now Spencer County in 1816, the year that Indiana became a state.

In 1934, archaeologists uncovered remnants of the cabin where the future president lived for 14 formative years as a boy and teenager. The browned heath and foundation of the simple home can be seen up close.

A circuitous maze of boxwood hedges eventually leads to a tiny stone chapel in the historic Harmonist Labyrinth on Route 69 just south of New Harmony. It symbolizes the difficult path to perfection.
St. John the Baptist Parish, 6317 N. Central Dr., Indianapolis. Festival, Thurs. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Italian foods, music, rides. Information: 317-787-8246.

St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. Fun Fest, 5 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, music, games. Information: 317-787-8246.

See FESTIVALS, page 48
FESTIVALS

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 46th and Illinois streets, festival and picnic, fried chicken and country ham dinners. Parish festival, Sat. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sun. New Alsace 5533.

St. Bernard Parish, 7600 Highway 337, entertainment, auction, chicken and noodles dinner. St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., Fortville August 2 yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., festival, Sat. 4:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., prime rib dinner, Parish festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.-St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 316 N. Sherwood Ave., 2:30 p.m., chicken dinner in dining room or carry-out meals. Information: 812-623-2670.

St. Andrew Parish, 7600 Highway 337, Franciscan, picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, booths, games. Information: 812-347-2326.

St. Boniface Parish, 15519 N. State Road 545, Fulda Parish picnic, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., food, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

August 9-10 St. Paul Parish, 9798 N. Deardorff Road, Guildford/ New Asia Parish: festival, Sat. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., family-style chicken dinner, quilts, food, games, music. Information: 812-847-2096.

August 10 St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary’s Drive, Lanesville. Parish festival and picnic, fried chicken and country ham dinners, booths, quilts, games, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-952-2855.

August 15-16 St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 46th and Illinois streets, Indianapolis. Sausage Fest, food, music, Fri., Sat. 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Information: 317-253-1061.

August 17 St. Pius Parish, County Road 500 E., Summan Parish picnic, chicken dinners, games, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-623-8007.


August 31 St. Patrick Parish, 950 Prospect St., Indianapolis, Parish festival, games, dance contest, food, health fair, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Information: 317-631-5824.

St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, Enochsburg Parish festival, fried chicken dinner, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-2880.

August 29-September 1 Sacred Heart Parish, 558 Nebeker St., Clinton. Little Italy Festival, Water street in downtown Clinton, Fri. 7 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-closing, Italian food, entertainment. Information: 765-832-8487.

September 1 St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Labor Day Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., booths, games, quilts, 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., chicken dinner in dining room or carry-out meals. Information: 812-623-3670.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4791 E. Morris Church St., Morris. Labor Day Festival, games, food, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 812-934-6218.

September 5 St. Anne Parish, 5267 N. Hamburg Road, Oldenburg, Turkey dinner. 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Information: 812-934-5854.

September 6-7 St. Michael Parish, 145 St. Michael Blvd., Brookville. Parish festival, Sat. 4 p.m.-10 p.m., pork chop dinner, Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-647-5462.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, 333 W. Maple St., Cambridge City, Canal Days, Highway 40 in downtown Cambridge City, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., parish food booths, pork chops and Italian sausage. Information: 765-478-3242.

St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., Rushville. Fall Festival. Sat. noon-11 p.m, hog roast, music, dance, Sun. 7 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-912-2588.


September 12-14 SS. Francis and Clare Parish, 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood. Parish festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. noon-midnight, Sun., family fun day, 1 p.m.-5 p.m., rides, games, music, food. Information: 317-859-4673.


St. Anne Parish, 102 N. 19th St., New Castle. Fall Bazaar, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., crafts, bookstore, rummage sale, stained-glass and slate souvenirs from church. Information: 765-529-0933.

September 13-14 St. Mary Parish, 302 E. McKee St., Greensburg. Parish picnic. Sat. 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m., pork chop dinner, Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., fried chicken, pulled pork barbecue, bake sale, games. Information: 812-663-8427.

September 14 St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., Jeffersonville. Harvest chicken dinner, bake sale, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-282-2677.


St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. Apple Fest, family fun, food, crafts, games, Fri. 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

September 20 Holy Cross Parish, 12239 State Road 62, St. Croix. Rummage sale, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-843-5701.

September 21 St. Louis Parish, 13 E. St. Louis Place, Batesville. Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games. Information: 812-934-3204.

See FESTIVALS, page 4B.

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This deluxe tour package includes three nights in Las Angeles, California, at the LAX Hilton Hotel; two nights in Laughlin, Nevada, on the Colorado River at the Aquarius Hotel, and two nights in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Hilton Hotel. You’ll enjoy the YMT city tour of LA, including Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and pre-parade float building and viewing at the Floats and Flowers Expo, and on January 1, 2008, reserved grandstand seats at the Rose Parade! Also included are baggage handling, motor coach sight-seeing, and optional burs for the Glory of Christmas at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, and The Grand Canyon. You’ve seen the parade on TV for years; now see the excitement and beauty of the most famous parade in America live and up close! The sights, the sounds, and especially the smells all make being there truly spectacular: “I’m standing right there, i.e., right above you” (where the audience capacity starts at only $999 plus $149 tax/government fees and services. Round trip airfare from Indianapolis to Las Angeles and home from Las Vegas is $650.

Friends and family are welcome. $100 deposits are now due.

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See FESTIVALS, page 4B.
By John F. Fink

SEDONA, ARIZ.—Many people consider Sedona, Ariz., about 110 miles north of Phoenix, and its surrounding area to be the most beautiful place in America.

Nestled between the massive rocks of Red Rock State Park and the deep gorges of Oak Creek Canyon, it has attracted thousands of artists and tourists. My wife, Marie, and I enjoy visiting there.

Some tourists prefer to hike through the Red Rock area, which requires a pass available at the Chamber of Commerce. Other visitors take guided tours by jeep, offered by several companies, or two 55-minute tours by trolley.

One of the most popular stops, either on a tour or driving yourself, is the Chapel of the Holy Cross, which is located about a mile outside town. A 90-foot cross dominates the chapel, which was built between two large red sandstone peaks and completed in 1936. A ramp leads to the entrance. It's an attractive site with a good view of the canyon area.

St. John Vianney Church and gardens is another beautiful desert destination. For the past 13 years, Father J. C. Ortiz, the pastor, has supervised the planting of extensive gardens around the church.

Last year, the Keep Sedona Beautiful organization nominated the gardens for a beautiful public space award.

During his seminary formation nearly 20 years ago, Father Ortiz attended the former Saint Meinrad College in southern Indiana. Through the years, he has maintained a long-distance friendship with several Benedictine monks.

You don't have to drive to Arizona to see some of the results of Father Ortiz's horticultural work in the parish gardens.

He has published The Sedona Gardens of Saint John Vianney, a gorgeous book filled with about 130 dazzling color photographs of flowers and desert scenery.

Six people are responsible for the stunning photos in the book, all with due credit, of course. Father Ortiz also acknowledges a long list of others, undoubtedly parishioners responsible for some of the heavy lifting.

This isn’t just an attractive picture book. It’s a book of meditations. Each chapter includes two reflections, which begin with a quotation from Scripture that has special significance to Father Ortiz's horticultural efforts or that reflects on the history of the gardens.

In both photos and text, Father Ortiz presents the gardens as a piece of his own desert.

Not all the photographs are of flowers. One of the most striking images is a full-page picture of a statue of St. Joseph and the Holy Child, partially adorned with snow, in the chapter for January, at one of several shrines on the parish property.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is pictured with flowers at both the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine and the shrine of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.

There are colorful flowers around the outdoor Stations of the Cross and a goldfish pond in an area dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi.

While Father Ortiz studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad, he was “surrounded by cornfields and dearly missed the scenery in Arizona.”

As a Hoosier, I can sympathize with him and admit that the topography in Indiana can’t match the Red Rocks of Sedona. Nevertheless, we also have beautiful gardens in Indiana.

To help himself feel a little more at home while he was studying at Saint Meinrad, he brought some cactuses to Indiana and “proudly displayed in one corner of my cell a piece of my very own desert.”

The photos of the cactuses in this book, in the chapter for August, are certainly among the most beautiful, especially a full-page picture of an Engelmann’s prickly pear and another of a Beavertail prickly pear.

That chapter also has a photo of cactuses in the foreground with the red rock formations of Suii Rock and Steamboat Rock in the background.

The photos show the amazing variety of plants and flowers at the St. John Vianney gardens. One two-page spread shows various tomatoes. It’s followed by a photo of a loaded-down peach tree spread across two pages. The pictures of roses are also spectacular.

Father Ortiz said the reflections in the book sprang from remembrances as he walked on the grounds and in the gardens.

(The book can be ordered from Zito Press, St. John Vianney Church, 180 Soldiers Pass Road, Sedona, AZ 86336. It is priced at $34.95. John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.)
BARDSTOWN, KY.—As you drive south on Interstate 65 out of Louisville and into central Kentucky, there is little evidence in the surrounding countryside that you are entering a region which played a key role in the early development of the Catholic Church in the United States.

But you would be doing exactly that if you got off the highway about an hour south of Louisville and headed over the rolling hills to the small town of Bardstown.

There, and in the area surrounding it, you will find the first cathedral west of the Appalachians, an even older parish church and rectory that also served as the first seminary in the American frontier, and some of the first religious communities in the United States.

In 1808, Pope Pius VII carved the new Diocese of Bardstown out of the Diocese of Baltimore, which at the time was the only Catholic diocese in the country.

One of the main reasons that Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States in April was to celebrate the bicentennial of these dioceses.

Originally, the Diocese of Bardstown stretched from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes and from the Allegheny Mountains to the Mississippi River.

In the two centuries since its establishment, 40 other dioceses have been created from its original lands, including the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

So, in many respects, by visiting Bardstown, you are tracing the roots of our own local Church in central and southern Indiana.

Pope Pius chose Bardstown along with the more well-established cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia as the centers of new dioceses in the United States because the late 1700s saw some 300 Catholic families from Maryland move west and settle there.

Although the new diocese was established in 1808, its first leader, Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget—a French priest who had fled to the United States from France during the French Revolution—didn’t arrive there until 1811.

Once he was settled, Bishop Flaget worked quickly to help his infant Church to grow larger.

This can be seen in the buildings of St. Thomas Parish, a few miles south of Bardstown.

The log cabin on the grounds that served as both the original home of Bishop Flaget and the first seminary on the American frontier was recently renovated, and everything you will see there, down to the wooden nails, is original from the time.

Visitors can tour the grounds any time by appointment. However, the parish property is only open to the public from noon until 2 p.m. on Sundays from May 1 to Nov. 1.

The parish’s church, which dates from 1816, is also of interest.

Continued on next page
For more information about the parish and its history, log on to www.st-thomasparish.org.

Three years after St. Thomas Parish built its church, the construction of St. Joseph Cathedral in Bardstown was completed. The Proto-Cathedral, as it is called now, continues to serve as a parish church almost 200 years later.

Much larger than St. Thomas Church, the cathedral—with its tall spire and interior marked by paintings that were gifts from popes and European royalty—must have been an impressive site to visitors who arrived at the small frontier town out of the seemingly endless forests of the time.

Also impressive is the fact that the building of the Proto-Cathedral was an ecumenical affair with Protestant Christians of the area lending their aid to a project they felt would increase the prestige of their town.

For more information about the Proto-Cathedral, log on to www.proto-cathedral.com.—pipe

Other signs around Bardstown of the life of the Church 200 years ago include the motherhouses of the Sisters of Loreto and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, both founded in 1812.

More religious orders also established themselves in the new diocese in the following years, including the Jesuits and the Dominican friars and sisters.

Perhaps more well-known among these religious orders are the Trappist monks of Gethsemani Abbey, located about 12 miles south of Bardstown.

Founded in 1848, seven years after the Diocese of Bardstown became the Diocese of Louisville, the Trappist monks have maintained an apostolate of contemplative prayer and monastic liturgies for more than 150 years.

It was their way of life that attracted a young Thomas Merton to join the community in 1941. Merton, who was known to his fellow monks as Father Louis, became a major Catholic spiritual author in the mid-20th century. Perhaps his most famous book is his 1948 autobiography titled The Seven Storey Mountain.

Visitors to the monastery can enjoy the same prayerful silence of the monastery’s church and its surrounding countryside that attracted Merton.

They can also purchase the cheese and bourbon fudge that the monks produce and sell to support their monastic community.

These and other Catholic historical sites will interest some tourists. Other signs around Bardstown of the life of religion 200 years ago include the motherhouses of the Dominicans, Franciscans, and the Carmelites, and the major Missionaries of Our Lady of the Greenwood.

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Italian artistry

Beauty fills Tuscany’s cities, towns and countryside

By Sean Gallagher

TUSCANY, ITALY—The cities and towns of Tuscany, a region of Italy north and west of Rome, attract countless visitors, filled as they are with beautiful, centuries-old churches and museums. Traveling through the region—at least for this two-time visitor to Tuscany—also keeps tourists charmed with every hill and turn in the road.

The rolling hills of Tuscany, which are the foothills of the Apennine Mountains, make up a beautiful patchwork quilt dotted with trees, villas, vineyards and olive tree groves. If you haven’t had the chance to travel through Tuscany, you can get a visual taste for what the region looks like by viewing the 1993 Shakespearean movie Much Ado About Nothing.

But as beautiful as that movie is visually, it cannot compare with actually visiting the region.

The splendor of the Tuscan hills is complemented nicely by the magnificence seen in its cities and towns.

The most prominent city in Tuscany is Florence. Even as a green, first-time overseas traveler of 17 when I visited the city 20 years ago, I found it easy to navigate its streets because of the Arno River that flows through the city.

As you walk from place to place, simply keep in mind where the river is located and that will help keep you from getting lost.

Walking near the river itself is a treat with the many interesting and ancient bridges that cross it.

The most well-known of these is the medieval Ponte Vecchio, on which have been built lines of shops over the centuries. Today, the buildings are mostly jewelry shops and art galleries.

A visit to Florence would not be complete without stopping at the city’s cathedral, known in Italian as the “Duomo.” The Renaissance-era dome designed by Brunelleschi dominates the skyline of the magnificent city.

The baptistry across the street from the duomo is also a great tourist site with its beautiful gilded bronze doors, known as the “Gates of Paradise,” and a 13th-century mosaic of the Last Judgment which adorns its ceilings.

One can easily imagine the medieval Florentine poet Dante being inspired by the mosaic as he penned the “Inferno” section of his Divine Comedy.

Florence’s two great museums, the Accademia and the Pitti Palace, are great meccas for lovers of Renaissance sculptures and paintings because they are filled with great works of art by Michelangelo, Raphael and other noted artists. Michelangelo’s famous statue of David is housed in a beautiful gallery in the Accademia.

Another prominent city in Tuscany is Siena. Like Florence, the view of Siena is dominated by its stunning medieval cathedral, covered on the exterior and interior with alternating rows of black and white marble.

The Church of San Domenico in Siena houses relics of the city’s great saint, Catherine of Siena, who is also patroness of all of Italy. Siena’s Church of San Francesco is the site of a Eucharistic miracle. Consecrated hosts that date from 1370 remain in pristine condition.

Before leaving Siena, visitors should take some time to relax on its main square, the Piazza del Campo. This large plaza is surrounded by tall apartment buildings that house shops and restaurants on their ground floors. It slopes downward to the Palazzo Pubblico, Siena’s medieval town hall, which dominates the area with its tall clock tower.

Most of the time, visitors and residents of Siena will sit back and relax in the square, perhaps enjoying some delicious gelato—Italian ice cream—as I did when visiting Siena in 2006.

But on July 2 and Aug. 16 each year, the Piazza del Campo is packed with spectators for the city’s centuries-old bareback horse race, the Palio.

Neighborhoods in the city sponsor horses, and the event is known for secret negotiations that begin well in advance. Residents of various neighborhoods team up to help each other or block their rivals’ horses.

The riders’ whips can be used on their competitors as well as on their own horses.

The race is preceded by a great medieval pageant with men in flowing, colorful costumes waving large, equally colorful flags that represent the neighborhoods.

If visitors to Tuscany happen to be in Siena on the day of the running of a Palio, they might want to escape the loud, bustling crowd gathered for the race by retreating to the quiet, hilltop town of San Gimignano.

An American tourist new to San Gimignano might be surprised when approaching the town because its skyline, which is medieval in origin, resembles in some ways a modern American grove. This view from the Villa Fattoria di Cinciano in Poggibonsi, Italy, shows the beauty of the rolling Tuscan countryside dotted with trees, vineyards and olive tree groves.

This view from the Villa Fattoria di Cinciano in Poggibonsi, Italy, shows the beauty of the rolling Tuscan countryside dotted with trees, vineyards and olive tree groves.

Continued on next page.

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city dominated by tall skyscrapers. San Gimignano is home to some 14 tall towers built by families in the town during the Middle Ages. Much like large corporations of today, families built these towers to outdo their rivals.

Other Tuscan cities and towns at one time featured such towers, but most of these structures have been brought down through wars or other disasters. Beauty will welcome you at every turn in Tuscany, and you will want to return again and again.

St. Meinrad
13150 E. County Road 1950 N.,
St. Meinrad Parish, Community Center,
765-832-8468.
4 p.m., fried chicken dinner. Information: .

September Fest, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., food, games, booths, silent auction, $25 per person. Information: 317-631-8746.

October 5
Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St.,
Oldenburg. Fall Festival, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, booths, games. Information: 812-934-3013.

October 11
St. Lawrence Parish, 6944 E. 46th St.,
Indianapolis. Fall Festival, food, games, music; 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-4005.

October 12
St. Mary-of-the-Rock Parish,
17440 St. Mary’s Road, Batesville. Turkey Festival, turkey dinners, booths, games, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-4165.

October 19
St. Isidore the Farmer Parish,
6501 St. Isidore Road, Bristow. Fall Festival and Shooting Match, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games. Information: 812-843-5713.

FESTIVALS
continued from page 4B
St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michael Drive,
Charlestown. September Fest, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

September 24
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, 3856 St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish,
Indianapolis. Fall Dinner Theater, buffet dinner and play, Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., $25 per person. Information: 317-631-8746.

October 4-5
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St.,
Indianapolis. Fall Festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., food, rides, games, entertainment. Information: 317-356-7291.

October 4
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 2222 E. Third St.,

October 4-5
St. Philip Neri Parish, 550 N. Rural St.,
Indianapolis. Fall Dinner Theater, buffet dinner and play, Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m., $25 per person. Information: 317-631-8746.

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St. Isidore the Farmer Parish,
6501 St. Isidore Road, Bristow. Fall Festival and Shooting Match, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games. Information: 812-843-5713.

Tell City
Parish festival and picnic,
St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acorn Road,
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., picnic, booths, games. Information: 812-364-6646.

October 5
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St.,
Indianapolis. Fall Festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 1 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., food, rides, games, entertainment. Information: 317-356-7291.

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FESTIVALS
continued from page 4B
St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michael Drive,
Charlestown. September Fest, 11 a.m.-
4 p.m., fried chicken dinner. Information: 765-832-8468.

St. Meinrad Parish, Community Center,
13150 E. County Road 1950 N.,
St. Meinrad. Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,
food, games, quilts. Information: 812-357-5533.

September 24
St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, 3856
Martin Road. Floyds Knobs. Dessert and card party, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., $5 per person. Information: 812-923-3011.

September 27
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E.
St. Andrew Fest,
Indianapolis. Fall Festival,
10 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner served,
5:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

FESTIVALS
continued from page 4B
St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michael Drive,
Charlestown. September Fest, 11 a.m.-
4 p.m., fried chicken dinner. Information: 765-832-8468.

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5:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.
Trip to Niagara Falls is one-of-a-kind vacation

By John Shaughnessy

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.—Try to picture this: a 63-year-old school teacher approaching Niagara Falls, carrying a barrel that she is determined to ride over the edge.

Imagine Annie Taylor looking at the height of the falls—about 170 feet high, which is also about the average depth of the river below the falls.

Now watch as she gets into the barrel and floats toward the raging waters. With frightening speed, the barrel and Taylor plummet over the edge of the falls and crash into the river. Three hours later, rescuers find Taylor.

Amazingly, she is alive, the first daredevil to ever go over the falls in a barrel.

The year is 1901.

While daredevils are mainly a part of the colorful past of Niagara Falls, people from around the world are still drawn by the breathtaking beauty and awe-inspiring fury of this natural wonder that spans one part of the border of Canada and the state of New York.

Last summer, my wife, Mary, and my daughter, Kathleen, and I joined the more than 11 million people from around the world who visit the Canadian side of Niagara Falls every year.

We arrived on a July morning when heavy gray clouds unleashed a relentless downpour on the area. We thought about leaving, continuing our journey toward Ottawa, Canada, but we decided to give the day a chance.

We were glad that we did, especially when the rain early morning was brightened by the sun and blue skies that have a 40-foot waterfall.

Another interesting view comes from the Rainbow Bridge, one of the bridges in the area that connect the United States and Canada. People can drive, walk or bike across the bridge, and the bikers and walkers sometimes pause for photos by a marker that shows one of the borders of the two countries.

Then there’s the view from Skylon Tower. Rising 520 feet above the falls, the tower has places to eat and an observation desk that supposedly offers a view of 80 miles on a clear day.

Botanical gardens and a butterfly conservatory are other nature-related attractions in the area. So is the Bird Kingdom, which features more than 400 birds flying through a rainforest setting that has a 40-foot waterfall.

Then there are the rainbows. When we visited Niagara Falls, a day that began with a glory beam and no chance of sunshine in the early morning was brightened by the sun and blue skies within several hours, creating rainbow after rainbow in the mist of the 12,000-year-old falls.

While the power and beauty of nature lure tourists to Niagara Falls, the area also reflects the commercialism that naturally comes when 11 million people a year need a place to stop, something to eat or other ways to be entertained after admiring one of the wonders of the world.

Indoor water parks, a haunted house, a casino, dinner theaters, souvenir shops, an IMAX theater and other attractions—including Guinness World Records and Ripley’s Believe It or Not—are part of the landscape of Niagara Falls.

So are the efforts to keep the falls a tourist attraction late into the night. Throughout the year, the falls are illuminated in different colors every evening after sunset. From mid-May to late August, there are also concerts and fireworks displays on the nights of every Friday, Sunday and holiday.

On the day we visited, the nightly illumination of the falls was a major disappointment. Yet it didn’t matter. Nearly a year later, the power and the beauty of the falls still linger in the mind.

It’s one of those places—one of those adventures—that should be experienced.

American travelers heading to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls should be aware of the identification requirements for entering Canada.

If you are an American citizen, you do not need a passport to enter Canada when you are driving there. You do need a photo ID and some proof of your citizenship, such as a birth certificate or a certificate of citizenship or naturalization.

Valid identification is also needed for the children riding in your car. And if you are traveling with children who aren’t part of your family, you need a signed consent form from their parent or guardian stating that you have the permission to do so.

A passport is required if you are an American citizen entering Canada by air.

(For more information about Niagara Falls, log on to the Web site at niagarafallstourism.com.)

Since the days of daredevils using barrels to ride over the edge of Niagara Falls has ended, the best way to experience this natural wonder is on the Maid of the Mist, a boat that takes its 600 passengers into the mouth of the falls.

It creates a feeling of being drenched in exhilaration, a feeling that especially rushes through the passengers who stand huddled together in the front of the boat.

While the Maid of the Mist is the best way to experience the falls, there are alternatives.

There’s a “Journey Behind the Falls” where people can descend 100 feet into elevators to walk through tunnels that show views of the falls or to stand on an open landing that provides the perfect setting for getting soaked, if that’s the goal.

Then there’s the “White Water Walk,” a land path that enables people to get close to the falls and the raging waters that come from four of the five Great Lakes: Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior. The walk also features a photo gallery of daredevils, including Annie Taylor.

The raw power and beauty of Niagara Falls draws more than 11 million visitors each year to the natural wonder that bridges Canada and the United States.

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and touched, a visible remnant of the early life of the 16th president of the United States, who was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865, shortly after the end of the Civil War.


Harmonie State Park

Established in Posey County in 1966
New Harmony, IN 47631
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3,465 acres
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New Albany
Where to go to
Mass: Holy Angels Church
423 South St.
New Harmony, IN 47631
812-838-2535
2 hours and 130 miles from New Albany
30 minutes from Lanesville
Harmonie State Park is quite large, covering 3,465 acres. Its boundary bisects the middle of the Wabash River, where it meets the Illinois state line. By road, Illinois is 10 minutes away.

The park boasts a boat ramp, a swimming pool, nature center, cabins, campsites, picnic shelters, fishing, horse trails, bicycle trails and wildlife ponds.

Not being campers, we stayed at New Harmony Inn which sits on four miles north of the state park. This was the best of both worlds: wilderness and air conditioning.

George Rapp founded the town in 1814 as a utopian experiment for German immigrants fleeing religious oppression. When the community failed, he sold the town to Scotsman Robert Owen in 1824.

Owen sought to establish an ideal, although secular, society. He organized the state’s first free public school and library to provide equal education for boys and girls as well as America’s first kindergarten.

The Workingmen’s Institute, established in 1838 by industrialist William McClure, is the state’s oldest continuously operating public library. It also serves as a museum and art gallery.

A reconstructed Rappite log cabin village stands in stark contrast to the modernistic visitor’s center, the Atheneum, whose ashes are buried there. The banks of the inn’s lake and a grove called the “Descent of the Holy Spirit.” New Harmony has two labyrinths. The 125 acres with a conference facility and covered swimming pool.

A pine thicket is dedicated to chartres Cathedral in Paris. Cathedral Labyrinth is a rose granite replica of the one at the renowned Chartres Cathedral in Paris.

New Harmony is a quiet, charming retreat or simply a great meal. Not being campers, we stayed at New Harmony Inn on 12 acres with a conference facility and covered swimming pool.

The park boasts a boat ramp, a swimming pool, nature center, cabins, campsites, picnic shelters, fishing, horse trails, bicycle trails and wildlife ponds.

The town is famous for its non-denominational Roofless Church, a walled garden anchored by a scalloped canopy over a large meandering on foot, peering into gardens and reading carved inscriptions on walls.

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Outdoor activities abound in Bloomington area

By Mike Krokos

With apologies to new head basketball coach Tom Crean, head football coach Bill Lynch and anyone else associated with Indiana University, there is a lot more to Bloomington than the college and its athletic programs.

Just ask anyone who has spent a warm spring, summer or fall day water-skiing, boating, swimming or fishing at nearby Lake Monroe, or people who have taken advantage of other recreational activities like camping, hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, snow skiing and snowboarding in the area.

If you’re into extreme sports, Bloomington can be a recreation destination for you, too. The Greater Bloomington area offers opportunities for rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, skydiving and even caving.

Pick almost any time of the year, and there is something recreational to do in or around Bloomington. As one popular outdoor Web site at www.hikercentral.com explains, if you live in or near Bloomington and you like the outdoors then you’ve in luck.

Another tourism Web site, www.visitbloomington.com, also touts Bloomington as a great place for outdoor excursions. It cites the area’s abundance of natural beauty and its three lakes, the state’s only national forest, and its variety of city and county parks.

For Hoosiers hoping that the area’s compatibility for outdoor adventure can remain a well-kept secret among Indiana residents, that is no longer a possibility.

Recent recognition that Bloomington received from National Geographic Adventure Magazine supports a high rate of visits for outdoor recreational purposes, according to Tosha Daugherty, director of marketing and communications for the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“In 2007, we were recognized as one of the top 50 adventure towns in the country [by the magazine],” Daugherty said in a recent e-mail interview. She said visitors account for more than $258 million in economic impact to the Bloomington area each year.

“Nearly 65 percent of those visitors are on a short trip of one to three nights in length,” Daugherty explained. “Another 11 percent were on a longer vacation. About 40 percent of visitors to the Bloomington area are on their first trip to the area, with the remaining 60 percent being repeat visitors [many with a connection to Indiana University]. Overall, visitors to the area have taken an average of four trips to the Bloomington area per year.”

This abbreviated list features some of the things that make the Bloomington area a recreational haven for people who love to be outside:

- Lake Monroe, a man-made reservoir just southeast of Bloomington, is the largest lake in Indiana. Boats with water-skiers in tow are a common sight this time of year as people of all ages take advantage of the warmer temperatures to enjoy the outdoors. You will also see fishermen casting their lines, and kayakers getting a good workout in the water. Swimmers are no strangers to the water this time of year, too.

- Camping is available at private, state and federal campgrounds. Boat rental companies, bait shops and two resorts are located on the lake’s shores.

- Several state recreation areas provide visitor information, nature centers and picnicking options. The Interpretive Nature Center is located at the Paynesville State Recreation Area.

- Griffy Lake National Forest is just off State Road 446 in Bloomington. This 200,000-acre national forest encompasses nine counties in southcentral Indiana.

- Great hiking is available on several moderately difficult trails that wind through the wooded ridges and ravines around the lake.

- Rent a canoe, kayak, rowboat or launch your own boat. Fishing is another option, but no swimming is allowed at Griffy Lake. Call 812-349-3700 for rental and boat-launching information. Boats with gas-powered motors are not allowed on the lake. Privately owned boats may be launched from the ramp located near the boathouse for a small fee.

- There are more than 230 miles of hiking, horseback and mountain-biking trails in the forest. Trails vary in difficulty and length.

- Campgrounds are located adjacent to large lakes, and in conjunction with some trail systems. Five private horse camps are located adjacent to the forest. Call 812-275-5987 for more information.

- Hoosier National Forest is just off State Road 446 in Bloomington. This 200,000-acre national forest encompasses nine counties in southcentral Indiana.

- The lake is 109 acres and has an average depth of 10 feet.

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- Originally designed to supply the city with drinking water, Griffy Lake is now a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. The lake is 109 acres and has an average depth of 10 feet.

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Read 25 additional travel stories that we have filed since 2005, including eight stories that feature recreational ideas within the Hoosier state.
You can also check the parish festival schedule online for ideas about fun things to do every weekend in the archdiocese.

U.S. 50 southwest of Bedford in nearby Lawrence County, offers spelunking tours that explore the underground world of caves. Tours are available every day from Memorial Day through October. Call Jim Richards at 812-279-9471 for more information.

• Annual events like the Hilly Hundred Bicycle Tour draw thousands of people to the Bloomington area each fall, Daugherty noted, adding that these special recreational activities bring “between 4,500 to 5,000 people to the area.”

Sponsored by the Central Indiana Bicycling Association Inc. and based in nearby Ellettsville, the 41st annual race will be held on Oct. 17-19. For more information, call 317-767-7765 or log on to www.cibaride.org.

To learn more ways to enjoy outdoor activities in and around the Bloomington area, log on to www.visitbloomington.com or call the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 812-330-4303.

Several public beaches on Lake Monroe are available for recreation. This beach is located at the Paynetown State Recreation Area on the east side of the reservoir. Paynetown State Recreation Area also features campgrounds, boat ramps, boat rental, the lake’s Nature Center and picnic areas.

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Water, water everywhere

Your hotel room travels with you on cruises

By John F. Fink

The last time I tried to count them, I figured that I have traveled to 61 different countries—some numerous times.

I did much of my traveling from 1974 to 1986 when I was vice president for six years then president for six years of the International Federation of Catholic Press Associations. Then, while I was editor of The Criterion from 1984 to 1996, my wife, Marie, and I led tours sponsored by this newspaper to the Holy Land, China, the Soviet Union and European countries.

With all the traveling that I’ve done over the years, I was late in appreciating the benefits of cruises.

The first cruise we took was at the end of a trip to the Holy Land when we cruised from Haifa, Israel, to Athens, Greece, stopping at Ephesus and Patmos. Later, during another trip sponsored by The Criterion, we included the Greek isles in our trip to Greece.

What’s wonderful about cruises is that your hotel room travels with you. You can unpack your luggage once instead of living out of a suitcase, packing and unpacking every day. You avoid those tiring and onerous bus trips since the cruise ship takes you from city to city.

Most of the cruise ships offer all the amenities of luxury hotels—fabulous dining, entertainment, sometimes a swimming pool, on-board lectures and more.

Besides the sea-going cruise ships, I recently discovered the pleasure of riverboat cruises.

Three years ago, I enjoyed a cruise on the Yangtze River in China. Two years ago, I went on a cruise on the Nile River in Egypt, stopping to see the ruins of many ancient Egyptian temples.

Last year, we cruised on the Danube River in Europe, stopping to visit Budapest and Estergom in Hungary.

Brașov, Sibiu, Transylvania; Vienna, the Benedictine Abbey at Melk and Lainz in Austria; and Prague in the Czech Republic. It sure beat traveling by bus to those places.

Cruise ships are available on many of Europe’s rivers—the Danube, Rhine, Mosel and others. These ships aren’t as large as the luxury liners. The one we took last year could accommodate 144 passengers. It didn’t have a theater, pool, multiple restaurants or top-quality entertainment, but it navigated the river just fine.

Some people prefer the large ships because of all the extra amenities they offer, while others like the intimacy of smaller ships. I can’t honestly choose one cruise ship over the other.

A cruise to Alaska has become a favorite for many people. Sometimes the cruise is combined with air travel over the other.

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either to or from Denali National Park, but the one we took began and ended in Vancouver, Canada, and visited Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. At Ketchikan, we flew in a small sea plane among the Misty Fjords and landed on a lake. At Juneau, we took a helicopter to the top of the glacier there. At Skagway, we took a train up a mountain as gold-seekers once did trying to get to the Yukon.

People take cruises to Alaska only during the summer. Therefore, many of those ships spend the winter in the Caribbean. One year, we caught one of those ships at Los Angeles and traveled with it to three stops along Mexico’s western coast, to Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal, then on to Cartagena, Columbia, as well as Aruba and Jamaica.

Another fascinating cruise we enjoyed was along the Yucatan Peninsula—the eastern coast of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras—where we explored Mayan ruins. We rode in small boats on a river through the jungles of Belize, took a plane to fly into the interior of Guatemala, and a long bus ride in Honduras—all to the intriguing historical ruins of the Mayans, who lived there from before the time of Christ about 900 A.D.

Perhaps the most popular cruises, at least in this hemisphere, are to the islands in the Caribbean. We did that with one of our daughters and her family, starting and ending in Puerto Rico and visiting Barbados, St. Lucia, Saint Martin, the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It’s hard not to have a good time on cruises in the Caribbean. We usually hired a taxi driver to show us around the various islands, although we rented a car once and took our own tour. Generally, it’s best to hire a taxi driver.

One of the challenges that people on cruises often face is the problem of getting to Mass on Sundays. Of course, that’s no problem at all if you happen to be traveling with priests who are given free cruises in return for their services. The most notable of these priests undoubtedly is chaplain Ned Joyce, who served as chaplains on Cunard Lines’ theater. The situation varies considerably.

Some cruise ships have Catholic chaplains, usually retired priests who are given free cruises in return for saying Mass for the passengers, usually in the ship’s theater. The most notable of these priests undoubtedly were Holy Cross Fathers Theodore Hesburgh and Ned Joyce, who served as chaplains on Cunard Lines’ Queen Elizabeth 2 on a three-month cruise around the world in 1988 after their retirements as president and executive vice president of the University of Notre Dame. I’ve never sailed on the QE2, but I’ve found Catholic chaplains on other cruise ships. When there is one, I introduce myself and usually end up as his sacristan, lector, altar server and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at his Masses. These chaplains also say weekday Masses at different times, depending on the day’s schedule of sightseeing.

When there is no chaplain, you have to find a Mass on one of the scheduled stops, and that adds enjoyment to your cruise experiences. When we found Mass in a church on the island of Rhodes, the pastor asked me to read the Mass readings in English, which I was glad to do. The church we found in Juneau, Alaska, had a magnificent view of the mountains behind the altar.

Europe has many Catholic churches, of course, but fewer Masses than we have in the U.S. Last year, Marie and I went to Sunday Mass at St. Martin’s Cathedral in Bratislava, Slovakia, which has been the coronation church of the kings and queens of Hungary for more than 250 years. The Mass was celebrated in the Slovakian language. I had read the readings before we went to Mass, so I knew what they were. That didn’t help, though, when it came to the homily.

There are occasions when it’s simply impossible to get to Mass. That happened two years ago during our cruise on the Nile River in Egypt. In that case, the best I could do was to organize a prayer service in the ship’s lounge for Christians who wanted to pray with us. Fortunately, I had brought along a Missalite.

I haven’t done an Amazon River cruise yet or a small boat cruise in the Galapagos Islands. Who knows? That might happen sometime in the future since I love to travel to new places by land, air and sea.

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.)

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Zoo celebrates 20 years

By Mary Ann Wyand

What’s new at the Indianapolis Zoo? Two male koalas native to Australia and on loan from the San Diego Zoo flew from California to Indianapolis on a passenger—not cargo—flight on May 13, and are settling into their temporary home at the world-class zoo in White River State Park.

Bamba and Coombah traveled with a zoologist and received special airline accommodations with their cages strapped to passenger seats to minimize stress, according to Judith Gagan, the zoo’s director of communications. Do koalas experience jet lag?

They sleep 18 hours or more a day, Gagan said, so probably took a long nap during the flight. They only eat eucalyptus—which is low in nutrition—so they tire easily.

Since 2000, koalas have been protected as a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Gagan said the Queensland koalas will meet the public in Indianapolis for the first time on May 24 as part of the zoo’s 20th anniversary celebration, which begins with the start of the summer season on Memorial Day weekend.

With 3,800 animals representing 320 species, there are always new babies and updated exhibits at the zoo, located at 1200 W. Washington St. near downtown Indianapolis.

Like Australian kangaroos, koalas are marsupials and have a pouch to carry their babies, Gagan said. Originally from the Australian Outback, they have cute faces and resemble Teddy bears, but also have very sharp claws.

She said it’s been 13 years since koalas lived at the zoo. If you want to watch the koalas climb trees and dine on eucalyptus leaves, visit the Forests Biome at the zoo this summer, Gagan said, because Bamba and Coombah will return to San Diego on Labor Day, which is on Sept. 1 this year.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Indianapolis Zoo’s 20th anniversary celebration on June 11, which commemorates to San Diego on Labor Day, which is on Sept. 1 this year.

And don’t forget to say hello to the koalas. †
SHELBY COUNTY—
Each May on the Sunday closest to Memorial Day, St. Vincent de Paul parishioners in Shelby County remember their founding pastor with prayers at his grave in the parish cemetery.

After the Sunday Mass, parishioners process outside to the historic, immaculately kept cemetery behind the brick church to pray for Father Vincent Bacquelin, a French-born priest who was the first resident pastor of this rural parish founded by immigrant farm families in 1837.

Two years after Father Bacquelin arrived in Indiana, the parishioners completed a small, frame church that they dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul.

But tragedy struck the parish a few years later with the death of their pastor.

Just a decade after the French priest emigrated from France to the United States then journeyed from Emmitsburg, Md., to serve God and the Church in Indiana, he was killed in a freak riding accident on his way back to the parish after visiting a sick parishioner.

Father Bacquelin died on Sept. 2, 1846, in Rush County of massive head injuries after a bee stung his horse and he was thrown into a tree.

In the early 1920s, St. Vincent de Paul parishioners had to deal with another unexpected tragedy when an arson fire destroyed their church and everything in it.

Resolutely, they faithfully shouldered the task of rebuilding their beloved church.

Today, the country church with its tall spire serves as a beacon of faith adjacent to Interstate 74 in Shelby County. St. Vincent de Paul parishioners take pride in their church and work hard to maintain the parish property, Father Paul Landwerlen, the pastor for 12 years, explained in a recent phone interview.

“We have a lot of history here,” Father Landwerlen said. “People in the parish take pride in keeping the place up as volunteers.”
Archdiocese of Indianapolis sues Facebook over phony Web page

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is suing the online social networking site Facebook to learn the identity of the person who developed a phony Facebook page that targeted a high school administrator by using his name without his permission.

The suit was filed on May 9 on behalf of Tim Puntarelli, dean of students at the archdiocesan-run Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

Archdiocesan spokesman Greg Otolski told Catholic News Service on May 15 that the suit was filed after Facebook failed to turn over information about who established the Web page and sent inappropriate messages to students.

Facebook, based in Palo Alto, Calif., allows users to communicate with friends, fellow students, co-workers and others. Users can post photos and messages on individual Web pages.

The phony Web page’s anonymous developers must be identified in order for the archdiocese to determine if it’s kids who thought it was a practical joke and didn’t realize the seriousness of it, or if it was someone who had it out for him to ruin his reputation and ruin his career.

The Web page was discovered on April 18 and was taken down within two days after the school’s technology director contacted Facebook, according to the complaint filed in Marion County Superior Court in Indianapolis.

The suit alleges that the user, identified only through an e-mail address as mclovenjesus@yahoo.com, created a profile for Puntarelli and defamed him through photos and inappropriate messages sent to Roncalli High School students. The postings included invitations to 31 students to become Puntarelli’s “Facebook Friends,” and a message suggesting that Puntarelli may take disciplinary action and/or administer a drug test to a student, the suit said.

The complaint also alleges that the user transmitted false and misleading messages about the archdiocese.

“We’re not looking to infringe upon anybody’s First Amendment rights in any kind of way,” Otolski said. “But I don’t think in this case he’s a public figure. He’s not somebody who would be well known to a large group of people.”

The court issued a temporary restraining order on May 9 preventing Facebook from destroying information regarding the identity of the Web page’s creator.

“We’re still talking with Facebook’s lawyers, and we’re still hoping that Facebook will give us the information we need to identify the creator of the page,” Otolski told CNS. Facebook declined to comment on the case.

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Scripture enables Christians to walk in footsteps of St. Paul

By Fr. Herbert Weber

When I was asked by my bishop to found a new parish three years ago, I read the Acts of the Apostles—which follow the Gospels in the New Testament—for possible insights about how best to establish a new church congregation.

Since it was shortly after Easter and Acts is a staple for that liturgical season, I soon found myself immersed in the travels and challenges faced by St. Paul the Apostle as he sought to share the teachings of Jesus with people living in many communities and countries.

The members of all faith communities can learn from Paul’s efforts. Long-established parishes and new congregations alike need to see themselves as evangelists, enthusiastic about sharing the message of Jesus and willing to take a journey of faith.

Only one time in my priesthood have I encountered an American adult who had never heard of Jesus Christ. After following the Stations of the Cross around the church, that person pointed to the image of Christ and asked me, “Who was that man and why did they do that to him?”

It would be a mistake to assume today that people already know the fullness of the Gospel message.

Many Christians, in fact, have trouble understanding the significance of the humility of Christ’s life and death, much less know how it affects them in a secular world.

Consequently, imitating Paul is necessary as a tool of evangelization.

Those who follow the footsteps and the spirit of St. Paul can begin with the road to Damascus. For Saul, this journey provided a conversion experience, a direct encounter with the Lord. In the flash of a light, Saul received a new beginning, which is symbolized by his new name, Paul.

All evangelization begins with one’s own encounter with the risen Lord. People don’t usually see a blinding light. But there has to be an awareness of the Spirit’s activity in their lives, calling them to something important and unique.

When our parish was barely six months old, I introduced the concept of small faith-sharing groups. With concentrated periods of weekly Scripture study and sharing, these groups are one of the ways that we provide people with faith encounters in daily life.

Other faith-sharing opportunities at our parish include weekend retreats, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process, a family-inclusive faith formation program and, of course, the Sunday liturgy throughout the Church year.

The goal of all these activities is to provide a setting in which people may experience the movement of the Holy Spirit. Put another way, before Paul was able to preach to others, his own faith had to be enflamed.

Paul spent time with the Christian community before beginning his missionary journeys. He became immersed in their prayer and faith traditions by sharing their way of life.

When I was growing up, I often heard from various religion teachers that good Catholics don’t have to preach because they can lead by giving a good example. I was told that practicing their faith and living their morals will speak loudly to the people around them.

After more than 30 years as a priest, I no longer believe that is enough. People need to speak about their faith and be willing to express their beliefs to others.

For those who want to follow St. Paul’s footsteps, doing this will be one of the biggest challenges.

Sharing one’s faith is not the same as talking about church events or parish politics. It involves going deeper and expressing the core of one’s beliefs, that which gives direction and purpose. It centers on a relationship with the Lord.

Many Catholics feel their faith stories are so private that they don’t know how to share them with others even if they want to do that. I have been teaching people how to talk about their faith. Paradoxically, it begins with listening and not talking.

As other people enter into conversations of trust and start to focus on what matters to them, the listeners try to concentrate on their own longings and hopes, finding answers to their own longings, too.

The word “preaching” has many negative connotations, but this kind of dialoguing is how the modern-day Paul would preach. And it is consistent with what Paul did in Athens when he addressed the crowd regarding the altar to the Unknown God (Acts 17:22-31).

Noting that Athenians were religious and had a place even for the God they had not yet discovered, Paul spoke about their deep desire to know this God. He used their anonymous longing as a way to share his story about Christ.

Another aspect of Paul’s ministry that relates to today’s congregations can be found in his First Letter to the Corinthians.

Aware that the Church at Corinth was conscious of the gifts of each of its members, Paul was also troubled because there was divisiveness and competition among the people.

Using the analogy of the body, Paul emphasized unity and the use of each gift for the good of all.

As contemporary congregations seek to help each member of the parish grow in faith, they often use gift-discernment processes. When parishioners discover their talents to be used in service of the community, they usually become more engaged in the Church. With that, their faith grows and they, too, are evangelized.

Paul’s work of evangelizing took place nearly 2,000 years ago, yet the process of discovering faith, sharing it and enlightening others still goes on as Christians continue to share the Good News of the Gospel messages in daily life.

(Father Herbert Weber is the founding pastor of Blessed John XXIII Parish in Perryville, Ohio.)

Discussion Point

St. Paul tirelessly spread the Gospel

This Week’s Question

Is there a concrete way that St. Paul the Apostle’s life can serve as an inspiration for people today?

“His struggles, but despite them he always kept the faith and shared it with others as best as he could. That’s a good lesson for us today.” (Colette Courtemanche, Skowhegan, Maine)

“You have to respect his determination and willingness to compromise some of his views in order to spread the Gospel. He had a temper and an agenda, and he had to learn to build bridges.” (John Dubosh, Dearborn, Mich.)

“The man was so deeply touched by his conversion that it changed his life in every dimension. He took the call to become a disciple so seriously.” (John Gohman, Palm Harbor, Fla.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: How did Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to the U.S. affect you personally? What did the pope do or say that remains most vivid in your memory. Why?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cregnue@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Faithful Lines/

Biblical women: Prisca, Paul’s collaborator

From the Editor Emeritus/

Priscilla as she is called in the Acts of the

(Forty-first in a series)

meant disagreement over the Messiahship of

and wildlife refuge around their home. It’s

visiting my sister and her husband in

Illinois," mother and grandmother. She and

been given. But, as women themselves, they

involved in consciousness-raising sessions

during the mother’s middle age. She was

the feminist movement when it appeared

Wissinger is “a country girl from central

Amy, the book’s protagonist, becomes a

private school that their children all attend.

their kids. Only one or two seem to miss

begins when her child is 10 years old.

need both incomes to pay their bills.

law because she was a bright student and it

about it or even about the law. She studied

That brought to me! An Academy of

Collecting bird nests? What memories

Shakespeare to blame for starlings arriving in

and his men to stop sailing? Why is

20 weeks of flying? Who wrote an opera

admiration for God’s fine-feathered creatures

through his winged creatures and other

Bible verse followed by a constructive

Zwingli was “a country girl from central

mother and grandmother. She and

her husband now reside in Townsend, Del.

life, my husband and I headed to the

shades of the sun rose, my husband and I headed to the

Prisca and Aquila were doing fine in

Paul decided to uproot them

again. This time, Paul wanted them to return to

Romans before he went to Rome, and he

wanted it to be a personal letter. He asked

Prisca and Aquila to give him the names of

some of Paul’s letters,

Paul remained in Corinth for 18 months.

On returning home, he and Prisca and

Apollos arrived in Ephesus. He was a Jew from Alexandria who

had learned about Jesus. He preached about him in the
tempters. When Paul arrived in Corinth, he

went job hunting. Prisca and Aquila hired him to manage their shop when Paul decided to

preach to about Jesus and they realized that

they had the same beliefs. Prisca and Aquila’s

home became a meeting place for the Christians that Paul

converted in Corinth.

Paul remained in Corinth for 18 months.

subsequent letters he wrote to the

Christians that Paul converted in Corinth.

13 years since Claudius had expelled the

They went there. This was the year 54, a full

year 60. Before going to Rome, he took a

decision to collect old and vacated birds’

nests for a science fair project.

Wissinger writes from such a heartfelt

praise for her husband and her daughter.

Web page at Amazon.com.

admission for God’s fine-feathered creatures

that I consistently found myself smiling.

the author’s observations on

What should motherhood really mean?

At present, I am reading a novel called

The Ten Year Nap by Meg Wolitzer. It’s a fictionalized account of a woman who left the

work force to have a family. She returned to it, based on the author’s own experiences. In an interesting and informative account of a culture somewhat

foreign to a woman of my generation.

The principal character’s mother was an early advocate of the feminist movement when it appeared during the middle of her middle age. She was

involved in consciousness-raising sessions and empowerment seminars, while her Rather, a country girl lived a separate life in the

same house.

Her three teenage daughters dined for themselves and felt they had lost the

attention and nurturing they formerly had been given. But, as women themselves, they

wanted to support their political candidates and women’s rights. They dutifully fulfilled the

mother’s ambition for them to be educated, professional women and wanted to make their

own way in the world.

Amy, the book’s protagonist, becomes a

lawyer and meets her lawyer husband in the

law. She likes her work well enough, but is not passionate about it or even about the law. She

studied law for a brief time, but realized it seemed to offer good opportunities.

When Amy becomes pregnant, she and her husband decide to move to New York.

They live in New York in an expensive apartment that becomes a balancing act, a

lifestyle, as all their friends do, and they need both incomes to pay their bills.

Here’s where the real story begins because Amy can’t bear to leave her little boy when her maternity leave ends. She becomes a “stay-at-home-mom,”

description that she despises, and the novel begins when her child is 10 years old.

Henry is 10 years old in this novel. Amy meets other mothers who have given up their

professions to stay home with their kids. Only one or two seem to miss their jobs, and most of them volunteer at the

private school that their children all attend. One of the best interviews dressed up in her professional clothing, it’s just for the fun of doing it. These interviews are to

her friends over their daily coffee sessions.

Some of the mothers still work as

scientists or museum directors or whatever, but, as they work with their kids while

dismay and disdain by Amy and her friends. The novel

offers the entire gamut of arguments for and

against staying home with kids while the family is supported by a working husband.

Speaking from my own experience, some of the arguments seem to ring true.

There were many weeks when I longed for an adult

conversation. I am not married, but I always

considered it important for me to have good

written and spoken word, but seldom examine

our family. But how do you explain this joy

laughter and blessings my 5-year-old nephew,

unspeakable joy” into this world. I know the

 announcing: “Trig is beautiful and already

18 pounds, 2 ounces. In true Sarah fashion, her

amniotic fluid leaked in Texas, but she gave a

speech at a Republican Governors Association

convention as scheduled anyway then returned to

meeting a politician who

truly passioned. Let me begin by

One-issue voters often reward someone with a

vote just because the candidate mouths the right words. Is this really how we examine what that politician has actually done to make public service more accessible

or more costly? Our governor is fortunate in that she has a loving family and tremendous support, re- alication that may not always

face challenges, and we feel 1
terest in abortion, but she has

emphasized legislative work, but she has

tried to meet a politician who

remembered. Now I like Sarah Palin a whole lot more. The
clean up, it’s so refreshing

opposing abortion, but seldom examine

For the Journey/Effie Caldorola

A politician who lives her truth

In a country where politicians spout a lot of pro-life rhetoric to follow up, it’s so refreshing to meet a politician who lives her truth.

Let me begin by

introducing the governor of Alaska.

Alaskans have a love affair going with their politicians. Sarah Palin, the former “Miss Wasilla” who

lives her truth.

recently become mayor of her

Alaska, my state.

lives her truth.

to follow up, it’s so refreshing
to meet a politician who

would face special challenges, and we feel

privileged that God would entrust us with this
gift and allow us unspeakable joy as he entered our lives.

Palin has Down syndrome. Early pregnancy loss and the diagnosis of Down

chromosomal abnormality as it is alarming more and more families in the early stages of
development.

Unfortunately, because of early screening, more children with Down syndrome are

 sogar so few and fewer are being born.

Children with Down syndrome do bring “unspeakable joy” into this world. I know the

laughter and blessings my 5-year-old nephew, Ethan, who has Down syndrome, has brought
to our family. But do how you explain this joy to a price.

Politicians rarely help. How many politicians are ever called upon to really

walk the walk in this issue?

One-issue voters often reward someone with a vote just because the candidate mouths the right words. Is this really

fashion that may not always

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development.
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 25, 2008

• Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
• 1 Corinthians 10:16-17
• John 6:51-58

This weekend, the Church celebrates the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), its Latin translation. The first reading is from the Book of Deuteronomy, one of the first five books of the Old Testament. Deuteronomy recalls the passage of the Promised Land. Moses is the central figure in this book, in the Pentateuch, and in the list of ancient Hebrew prophets. He is the principal figure in this reading. To understand this book, and indeed to understand the plight of the Hebrews as they fled from slavery in Egypt, across the Sinai Peninsula, and eventually to the Promised Land, it is necessary to realize how bleak and sterile the Sinai desert was—and still is, for that matter. The fleeing Hebrews were virtually helpless. They faced starvation as well as possible death from thirst since food and water were nowhere to be found. Through Moses, God supplied their needs. As a result, the people lived. They did not perish. In time, they arrived at the Promised Land.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. Along with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, First Corinthians provides the New Testament with records of the institution of the Eucharist. The presence of this record in First Corinthians indicates how important the Eucharist was in early Christianity. The similarity among all the accounts shows how carefully the first Christians wished to repeat the Last Supper. St. John’s Gospel is the source of the first reading, is a fitting initiation for the Church’s lesson on this feast of Corpus Christi.

They were completely at the mercy of an unknown and very unforgiving land. They had no way out. They could barely help themselves, if at all. Without food and water, and without any direction as to where to go, they were facing death itself. God supplied them with food and water, and pointed them on the right path to the Promised Land. God gave them life.

It is important that we realize who and where we are. Today, as humans in any time, we are lost in our own stark and sterile Sinai Peninsulas. We may have earthly food and water—although many people do not. We may assume that we know where we are, and where we should go with our lives. But, in fact, we are also at the mercy of conditions surrounding us. In the spiritual sense, we may be facing death.

We can do nothing ultimately to rescue ourselves on our own. God enters the picture. He gives us Jesus, the Son of God. The Lord gives us the Eucharist. As the early Christians so firmly believed, the Eucharist is not merely a symbol. The Eucharist is Jesus, the Lord of our “body, blood, soul and divinity.” In the Eucharist, Jesus gives us life.

My Journey to God

Beheaded Saints

They are in the flowerbeds, on window sills. Bedside tables and curio shelves. Gray stone figures that have literally lost their heads—Not by the sword, but by Small, rambunctious bodies, bicycle tires, Wooden wagons or mis-swung baseball bats… St. Pasquale and St. Anne, by falls Off the kitchen shelf onto the Bedside tables and curio shelves…

A full-headed statue is a rare thing, To be much enjoyed and admired. Representing the good intentions of ancient Hebrew prophets. He is the central figure in this reading. To understand this book, and indeed to understand the plight of the Hebrews as they fled from slavery in Egypt, across the Sinai Peninsula, and eventually to the Promised Land, it is necessary to realize how bleak and sterile the Sinai desert was—and still is, for that matter. The fleeing Hebrews were virtually helpless. They faced starvation as well as possible death from thirst since food and water were nowhere to be found. Through Moses, God supplied their needs. As a result, the people lived. They did not perish. In time, they arrived at the Promised Land.

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Question Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

Holy Week liturgies date back to Christians in the early Church

Because a family member was Erected into the Catholic faith the past Holy Week, I attended the Holy Thursday evening Mass and the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday for the first time.

I have to say that I was awed because they were so beautiful. When I was growing up— I’m 69 years old now—we never heard about them.

I had no idea what it was all about. Are they something new? When did they start? (Pennsylvania)

I am happy that you discovered these Holy Week liturgies. They are among the greatest treasures of our Catholic faith.

Far from new, the sacred Triduum liturgies—Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday—are ancient. Apart from Sundays, the first feast celebrated by Christians was Easter.

After a long night vigil of Scripture readings and prayers which extended into early Sunday morning, the Easter Vigil was celebrated by the early Christians. During it, new Christians—adults and children—were baptized and confirmed, and they received the Eucharist for the first time.

Centuries later, the Easter Vigil and other related ceremonies changed dramatically. By the 10th century, for example, most adults who became known as Christian Europe were already baptized. Thus, generally baptisms were celebrated only for infants.

In addition, beginning long before the lifetime of anyone today, no celebration of Mass was permitted after noon on Holy Saturday, even for the Easter Vigil. Older Catholics will remember when there were no afternoon, evening or wedding Sunday Masses, and no Masses on Christmas Eve or Saturday evening.

Holy Thursday Masses were celebrated in the morning, perhaps followed by some hours of veneration of the Blessed Sacrament.

I remember serving our pastor at the Holy Saturday liturgy during the 1950s. The priest began about 7:30 a.m., reading all the required Scripture passages, prayers and blessings, speaking everything in Latin. A few people would drift in for the Mass which followed, and everything was finished by 8:30 a.m. That was the “Easter Vigil” in those days, and for centuries before then.

Only in 1955 did the Church return these liturgies to their former dignity and solemnity. We have Pope Pius XII to thank for the return of the Easter Triduum liturgies that we enjoy in the Church today.

Incidentally, this great pope usually does not receive the credit that he deserves for the liturgical renewal which received its greatest impulsion in the Second Vatican Council a few years after he died.

His historic 1947 encyclical on the liturgy, Mediator Dei, and his restoration of the Easter liturgies helped set the tone and direction for what was to come at the Second Vatican Council.

I am often asked even to this day whether the Holy Saturday Vigil Mass “counts” for Easter Sunday.

From what I have described, it’s clear that not only does it count, but that the Easter Vigil celebration of the Eucharist is the Easter celebration first and beyond all others.

(A free brochure in English or Spanish, answering questions that Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of jdietzen@aol.com)”
Jeffersonville, April 27.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
HARTMAN, Fannie, 84, Clements.
April 16. Brother of Betty, 87,
HANRAHAN, Joseph M.
Grandson of Alta Cox.
Diane Groves. Brother of Kristie
St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford,
GROVES, Jordan Dean
Barnhorst and Dr. Mark
Franklin. Sister of Shirley
Jeanne, Mare and Daniel
Anna McDonnell, Elizabeth,
Mother of Susan Blackwell,
St. Pius X, Indianapolis, May 7.
FRANKLIN, Joan F., 83,
Great-great-grandmother of three.
Great-grandmother of 22.
Mary Beth Mueller. Grandmother
John and Robert Eads. Sister of
Shirley Roller, Janet Swigert,
EADS, Dorothy
four.
Marilyn Cochran. Grandmother
Sister of Jeanette Butner and
Amberger and Nicholas Childers.
May 10. Wife of William
Holy Spirit, Indianapolis,
CHILDERS, Pauline
mother of two.
mother of three. Step-grand -
and Gregory Cafouros. Grand -
CAFOUROS, Virginia
93,
seven.
Great-grandmother of
Mary Ropp. Father of Kim
Richmond, May 5. Husband of
St. Mary, Rushville, May 12.
SADDLER, Paul E., 55,
Great-grandfather of three.
POTTER, Marikay Duffy. Aunt of several.
Sister of Providence Sister
Henrietta Bauer-Whitten. Brother of
Rose Marie Wilbert and
Donald Wheatley.
ZINKAN, Geraldine, 62,
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indian-
apolis, May 8. Daughter of Margaret
Zinkan. Sister of Karen
McCray, Danny, John and Michael
Zinkan.

For more than 127 years, St. Vincent Health has been serving as a voice for the vulnerable. With 17 ministries serving 45 counties we have an opportunity to amplify the voices of those most in need. This includes more than 561,000 Hoosiers who are living without health insurance. Of this group, approximately 62% are working-age adults with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Throughout Cover the Uninsured Week 2008 — April 27 - May 3 — St. Vincent Health will be addressing this issue by serving as official enrollment centers for Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP). HIP is designed to offer basic health coverage to qualified Hoosiers who do not have access to employer-sponsored health insurance.

To learn more about HIP, please call (317) 338-CARE or (888) 338-2273.
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Seeking a new part-time PARISH DIRECTOR

DANIELLE HUGHEY

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www.stcindipendence.org

Elementary School in Independence KY is conducting a search for a new Principal for the 2008-2009 year. St. Cecilia is a fully accredited, traditionally graded kindergarten through 8th grade program, which also operates a pre-school and after-care program. Quality teachers, loyal and involved parents, and a supportive pastor and Board of Education make this an attractive destination for the successful candidate. We are searching for an energetic and experienced, faith-filled professional with solid professional and interpersonal skills who will join us in our mission to provide the highest quality Catholic education for our students. Candidates must be practicing Roman Catholics and eligible for Kentucky certification.

To begin the application process, contact Stephen Koplyay at skoplyay@covingtondiocese.org EOE.

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The Bishop Chatard High School Class of 2008 has left an indelible mark. Through their commitment to faith, learning, leadership and service, BCHS seniors have enhanced the lives of those in their school, church and civic communities.

Under the leadership of the Class of 2008:

• To date, seniors have received more than $7 million in scholarships and awards to attend colleges and universities throughout the United States.

• 146 pints of blood were donated during the 2008 Senior Blood Drive.

• 37 seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society.

• $29,030 was raised to fight childhood illness during the Dance Marathon for Riley Hospital.

• More than 19,000 cans of food were donated to local charitable organizations through the Thanksgiving food drive.

• BCHS newspaper and yearbook staffs earned state and national honors.

• Athletic teams earned local, regional, semi-state and state championships, including the school’s 9th football state championship and 1st girls basketball state runner-up title.

• BCHS students visited North Deeney grade schools, tutoring and exploring opportunities to learn with younger students.

• Class members donated more than 15,000 hours of school, parish and community service while BCHS students.

Congratulations

Bishop Chatard Class of 2008!

Mary-Bridget Atkins
Ellen Marie Alerding
Kathleen Atkins
Nathan Michael Atkins
Ramsey Frank Ayers
Emily Ha Ball
Lauren Barnes
Brittany Marie Bastnagel
Catherine Gene Bates
Colleen Elizabeth Bates
Jackson Michael Beatty
Olivia Dawn Bell
Alisa Marie Benjamin
Kamilla Katherine Benko
Mackenzie Leigh Berg
Anne Elizabeth Boese
Madelyn Colleen Bormann
Matthew Ryan Bower
Joyce Lynn Box
Jessica Ann Brizzi
Deanna Lynn Burgess
Chelsea Nicole Burns
Zacary Edward Vincent Burton
Dinashia Chanel Butts
Jackson Scott Byam
Cassie Lee Caccavo
Kyle Estolila Chavis
Evamarie Grace Christe
Kathleen A. Ciresa
Ann Elizabeth Collier
Jacob Cotter
Hillary A. Cox
Terrence Anthony Cruise
Amanda Rachel Dall
Princess Marissa Darnell
Colin Dean Davidson
Anna Alexandria Davis
Caitlin Alexandra Davis
Kyle Xavier Dietrick
Mary Katherine Dodson
Ryan Michael Dorney
Kathryn Elizabeth Doyle
Patricia Marie Doyle
Robert James Doyle
Noelle Marie Dollach
Michael J. Dum
John Akin Dury
Aileen Meredith Eck
Alex M. Engl
Caillind Marie Ewen
Catherine Marie Fadale
Hannah Jane Feick
Mollie Elizabeth Felahom
Christina Marie Fileenworth
Kara Angelie Ford
Courtney Michelle Forestal
Luminista Gabriela E. Fornefeld
Joseph A. Gaines
Megan Erin Gardner
Stephanie M. Gardner
Charles Richard Glesing, III

Caroline Marie Gorden
Stephen Christopher Green
Michael Anthony Griffith
Lisa Marie Grodowski
Hunter James Groves
Christine Marie Hammond
Rachel A. Hanley
Monte L. Harkey
Cara Elizabeth Hayes
Allyson Catherine Higgenbottom
Daryn Christian Hightower
Francis Alexander Hill
Travis Davis Hiner
Michael R. Hoffman
Lauren Angeline Hofmeister
Allison Christine Hoka
Christopher Hotwagner
Jeffrey Mark Christopher Huffman
Leslie Leigh Hupp
Nicole Anne Huser
Lindsay Marie Hyde
Maria Donata Jaynes
Tyr Lei Johnson
Zachary Elliot Johnson
Kaylee Jules Joseph
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David Joseph Kimack
Kathleen Elizabeth Kirk
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Gina Marie LaRose
Lindsay Marie Lactoni
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Caitlin Marra
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Shawun Lynette Mathis
Elaine René McCarthy
Molly Jo Mcgonigal
Katherine Milnes McKay
Kathleen Clare McKiernan
Matthew Price Metzger
Anna Marie Miller
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Tiffany Marie Nangle

Suzanne Carol Nasser
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Thomas Henry O'Bryan
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Sean Patrick O'Connor
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Julie A. O'Orman
Alexis Marie Peterson
Madeline Renee Piatt
Jacob Michael Plesner
Krista L. Price
Cory Daniel Rago
Daniel James Reed
Matthew Garrett Rogers
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Katherine Irene Rudolph
Robert Raymond Schor
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Peter Stevenson Stockley
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Dana Lynn Sigman
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Mark Brian Skilenko, Jr.
Michael John Smeleuyzen
Daniel Louis Smith
Eleanor Rose Smith
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Courtney Ashley Tyler
Stephen Richard Valdiserri
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Kathleen Anne Weiskittel
Mary C. Weston
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Kendra Nicole White
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Graham Allen Wilkerson
Donovan E. Williams
Blair Elyse Wolkoff
Christopher Thomas Zahriskie
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Michael James Zimmerman